# PRESIDENT'S TAX POSES EASY ISSUE, HOUSE PANEL SAY

Curtis and Schneebeli Would Solve the Matter in Hands of the Committee's Staff

By EILEEN SHANAHAN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8—Two Republican members of the Congressional committee that will review President Nixon's tax returns said today that the matter was "not complex" and could be settled largely by the committee staff.

One member disagreed and expressed [illegible] The committee will [illegible] with some extra complications that might arise because the President is not merely examining [illegible]

Committee members before the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation [illegible] that the Internal Revenue Service [illegible] to Mr. Nixon's tax [illegible] There are [illegible] in dispute [illegible] which ones are which [illegible] were deliberately [illegible] to permit the President to qualify for a tax deduction that has saved him $2[illegible] in Federal income taxes.

### Called Nonpartisan

The members who saw the [illegible] was relatively simple were Senator Carl T. Curtis of Nebraska and Representative Herman T. Schneebeli of Pennsylvania. Both men noted that the staff of the joint committee was widely regarded as [illegible] nonpartisan [illegible] Congress.

One committee member who felt [illegible] with the factual questions that would have to be [illegible] by the staff because he feared [illegible] to get [illegible] professional assistance.

The two men were the only ones [illegible] the 10 members of the committee who could be reached at home today.

### There Is an Issue

President Nixon has said that he would abide by whatever decision the joint committee makes on two controversial issues.

The first, and by far the largest in dollar terms, is whether he donated his pre-Presidential papers to the National Archives before July 25, 1969, the effective date of a change in the law that took the tax advantages out of such gifts. The donated papers were valued at $576,000 and have saved the Nixons $235,000 in taxes, according to the White

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[illegible] determine there was no capital gain on the sale, in view of the fact that the land was sold for a higher per-acre price than the Nixons had paid for it.

If the Nixons are using Washington, D.C., as their residence [illegible] have said they are, can the San Clemente house be called their "primary residence?" If [illegible] the primary residence [illegible] the new rules [illegible] capital gains [illegible] from the sale [illegible] Secretaries are [illegible] only if they [illegible] another primary residence [illegible] a year.

Senator Curtis said he thought "it is obvious that the President acted in accordance with the law."

### No View on Correctness

He said he thought there was really no need to refer the issue to the joint committee but that the President had done so "as an extra showing of good faith."

Representative Schneebeli did not express an opinion on the correctness of the President's tax returns but clearly said he thought the legal questions could be handled by the staff. He said the committee was not equipped to go into the questions of evidence on the timeliness of the gift of the papers.

Other Congressional response to the President's financial disclosures was generally favorable.

The Senate Majority leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, said he "would have no reason

[illegible] the President has [illegible] proved [illegible]

The minority leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, said the disclosure "should end the speculation that the President was involved in any illegal financial transaction or used [illegible] improperly."

### Meeting Not Scheduled

When the joint committee would begin its work of determining [illegible] Mr. Nixon owed [illegible] was not clear.

The relevant documents, including Mr. Nixon's tax returns, are expected to be transmitted to committee members early [illegible] week. The committee's chairman, Wilbur D. Mills, Democrat of Arkansas, indicated that he would want to schedule a meeting until after the documents were delivered.

Although Mr. Nixon has said he would abide by any decision that the joint committee makes about his taxes, the committee has no legal authority to require him or anyone else to amend their tax returns.

The committee does have the authority to examine any tax return, and there is a specific statutory requirement that it be permitted 30 days to look at any tax return involving a refund of $100,000 or more before the refund is paid by the government.